

10/01 8012

217222US-3X PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
 MASAMI TAKIMOTO ET AL : GROUP ART UNIT
 SERIAL NO: 10/018,012 :
 FILED: DECEMBER 14, 2001 : EXAMINER:
 FOR: COLOR PIGMENT MASTER :
 BATCH AND BLOW MOLDING
 METHOD USING THE SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 5 as follows:

5. (Amended) A blow-molded article having a grain-tone appearance prepared by blow-molding a molding material comprising as a pigment, 1 to 10 % by weight based on the molding material, of a base color pigment master batch comprising a base color pigment and a carrier resin having a melting temperature which is not higher than a melting temperature of a molding base resin and 0.1 to 5 % by weight based on the molding material, of the color pigment master batch as described in claim 1 as a pigment.

Please add new Claims 7 and 8 as follows:

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7. (New) A blow-molded article having a grain-tone appearance prepared by blow-molding a molding material comprising as a pigment, 1 to 10 % by weight based on the molding material, of a base color pigment master batch comprising a base color pigment and a carrier resin having a melting temperature which is not higher than a melting temperature of a molding base resin and 0.1 to 5 % by weight based on the molding material, of the color pigment master batch as described in claim 2 as a pigment.

8. (New) A blow molding method in which a recycled material prepared by crushing or pelletizing again molding burrs obtained in producing the blow-molded article as described in claim 7 is added in a prescribed amount, wherein a grain-tone pigment having a concentration obtained by deducting an addition percentage of the grain-tone pigment added every hour from a concentration of the residual grain-tone pigment contained in a molded article which finally converges into a fixed value by adding a prescribed amount of the grain-tone pigment every time is supplemented in molding at an initial stage where the recycled material is not added.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract on page 44 as follows:

ABSTRACT

A color pigment master batch having a high recycling property and a process for producing a blow-molded article having a grain-tone appearance using this color pigment master batch. The color pigment master batch for blow molding includes a pigment and a carrier resin. The carrier resin is a thermoplastic elastomer which is a crystalline or amorphous thermoplastic elastomer having a Vicat softening point higher than a melting temperature of a molding base resin and a crystal melting point or a flow-starting temperature

higher by 20°C or more than a melting temperature of the molding base resin and in which an MFR ratio thereof to the molding base resin is 5 or more.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present preliminary amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in more proper format under United States practice.

By the present preliminary amendment Claim 5 is amended to cancel the multiple dependency recited therein. Further, the subject matter of the canceled multiple dependency is now set forth in new dependent Claims 7 and 8.

The Abstract is also amended to be in more proper format under United States practice.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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Serial No: 10/018, 012

Amendment Filed on:

3-28-2002

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 5 as follows:

--5. (Amended) A blow-molded article having a grain-tone appearance prepared by blow-molding a molding material comprising as a pigment, 1 to 10 % by weight based on the molding material, of a base color pigment master batch comprising a base color pigment and a carrier resin having a melting temperature which is not higher than a melting temperature of a molding base resin and 0.1 to 5 % by weight based on the molding material, of the color pigment master batch as described in claim 1 [or 2] as a pigment.--

Claims 7 and 8 (New).

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract on page 44 as follows:

--ABSTRACT

[Provided are a] A color pigment master batch having a high recycling property and a process for producing a blow-molded article having a grain-tone appearance using this color pigment master batch. [Disclosed is a] The color pigment master batch for blow molding [comprising] includes a pigment and a carrier resin[, wherein used as a] .The carrier resin is a thermoplastic elastomer which is a crystalline or amorphous thermoplastic elastomer having a Vicat softening point higher than a melting temperature of a molding base resin and a crystal melting point or a flow-starting temperature higher by 20°C or more than a melting temperature of the molding base resin and in which an MFR ratio thereof to the molding base resin is 5 or more.--

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THE SAME

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS & TRADEMARKS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the notification dated **FEBRUARY 14, 2002**, and in accordance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 371, Applicants submit herewith a Rule 63 Declaration and a Preliminary Amendment. As a result of the Preliminary Amendment, no multiple dependencies remain in the claims. Accordingly, no additional claim fees are due.

The required surcharge was paid at the time of filing the application.

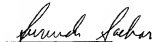
In light of the foregoing, this application is deemed to be in proper condition for examination and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Our check in the amount of \$-0.00- is attached hereto. If any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the required Government fee, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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Attorney of Record
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Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423



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